

MONTANA BOARD OF HORSE RACING MEETING
APRIL 23, 2007 – 4:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE CALL

Unapproved Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

Bob Brastrup	Chairman	Brenda Koch	Board Member
Sue Austin	Board Member	Al Carruthers	Board Member
Jay Clark	Board Member	Mike Tatsey	Board Member
Sam Murfitt	Executive Secretary	Carol Grell Morris	Legal Counsel
Marlys Stark	Administrative Assistant		

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:

Ben Carlson, Lou Wojciechowski, Tom Williams

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairman Brastrup called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

MINUTES:

Upon motion regularly made and carried, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved and ordered filed with the permanent records of the Board.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED MATCH BRONC RULES:

On March 12, 2007, the Board filed a proposed rule notice which proposed new rules for HB 333, allowing parimutuel wagering on match bronc and wild horse rides, since the bill has been signed by the governor and was effective immediately. The deadline for public comment expired on April 19, 2007, with no comments being received. The new rules may therefore be adopted at this time.

Member Clark made a motion, seconded by Member Carruthers that the Board adopt the new rules exactly as proposed. The motion carried.

2007 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Executive Secretary Murfitt gave a brief summary on the status of all bills affecting the Board of Horse Racing directly with only a few days remaining of the 2007 session. HB2 which contains both the Board's regular budget money as well as the one time only general fund money request has been split into several bills as previously reported. The Horse Racing portion is in HB820 and although that has not been passed and signed into law at this time, likely will be.

HB333 was the legislation previously signed regarding parimutuel wagering on match bronc rides and wild horse races and new rules are being adopted regarding that. HB390 is the telephone account wagering bill and has passed both houses and is currently waiting to be signed by the governor. HB502 which took a portion of the gambling machine tax and directed it to Horse Racing died in the appropriations committee. HB616, the fantasy sports bill, has passed both houses and is currently waiting to be signed by the governor. SB359 which involved the reorganization of the Board of Horse Racing and a department move has apparently stalled in the appropriations committee with no action since a hearing on the 3rd of April.

If HB390 and HB616 are signed by the Governor, the Board will need to meet as soon as possible after the new members are appointed in order to begin brainstorming ways to work on new rules for those new programs.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Insurance Update. Executive Secretary Murfitt reported that he has been in contact yet again with State Fund and they are still adamantly NOT interested in covering jockeys. Yellowstone Downs representative Ben Carlson reported that the best quote they have received to date is from AIG out of California. That is for \$500,000 of medical only, no disability and is \$4,250 per day with no deductible.

Previously the Board had voted to allow the tracks to use up to \$10,000 of their SB65 money for insurance deductibles. If Yellowstone Downs chooses this insurance, **a future agenda item will be a discussion on allowing usage of that money for the per day cost since there will be no deductible.**

2. One Time Only Budget Request Disbursement. The Executive Secretary reported to the Board that since Miles City runs before the new budget money comes in and yet the money is supposed to be used to pay some regulatory costs in 2007 and 2008, he would like Board approval to pay Miles City's share from SB65 purse money and then reimburse the purse fund when the new funds become available.

Motion by Member Clark to allow the temporary use of purse money until the budget request money (EPP) has come in. The motion was seconded by Member Koch and approved by the Board.

The Executive Secretary also reported that the Board financial picture is still dropping due to decreased license sales and simulcast income.

3. 2007 Race Dates. There have been no date changes since the last meeting and no indications from any of the tracks that there will be.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

In accordance with Mont. Code Ann. § 2-3-103, the meeting was opened for public comment at this time. Chairman Brastrup read the open forum statement and the public was informed that they could have a short time for comment but that no action could be taken on any issue at this time.

Tom Williams from the Montana Breeder's Association expressed kudos to the Board. He informed the Board that the organization he represents currently has 10 members from an estimated 450 possible members and would like any ideas to promote and increase their organization.

Executive Secretary Murfitt once again expressed appreciation to the exiting board members for all they have done during their terms as it is likely new board members will shortly be appointed.

Member Tatsey reported that Browning is hoping to move ahead with a race format somewhat like Crow Fair has but due to financial constraints is not likely to be able to do much for this year.

Great Falls was discussed briefly with concern being expressed as to rumors about them NOT running. The last official notice the Board office had was that Great Falls was running their days as applied for and has not been informed of anything to the contrary. Some of the horsemen on the call will try to contact Bill Ogg directly to get a definite answer.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Signature

Date